

REMARKS

The application has been amended so as to place it in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

Originally-filed claims 1-9 have been cancelled and replaced with new claims 10-29, which are believed to patentably recite the present invention.

The abstract has been amended.

There are no formal matters outstanding.

The Official Action rejected the originally-filed claims as either anticipated by KOBAYASHI et al. 6,411,359 or as obvious over KOBAYASHI et al. in view of KOMANO 5,375,005.

Applicant has carefully studied these references and drafted the new claims so as to patentably recite the present invention.

The two applied references taken either individually or in combination do not show the inventive liquid crystal display as recited by independent claims 10 and 22. Specifically, the references neither anticipate nor render obvious the combination of a rear case having lamp holders and light guide plate retaining elements extending from an upper surface thereof; a lamp unit mounted on the upper surface via the lamp unit holders; a light guide plate mounted over the upper surface of the rear case and retained by the retaining elements, where the lamp unit operatively is positioned adjacent the light guide plate and the

lamp unit is independent from the light guide plate. See the further recitations in these claims of first and second notch sections extending inwardly on the rear case: 1) along the length of the lamp unit, and 2) along a length of the rear case opposite the first rectangular section.

The features of the newly-presented dependent claims are also believed to be patentable in their own right.

Specifically, consider the recitations of a lid covering the second section from a bottom surface of the case, wherein the liquid crystal display panel includes a substrate, the second notch section serving as a storage portion receiving the substrate, and the substrate being located intermediate the lid and the liquid crystal display panel.

See also the recitations of the bottom of the rear case being entirely planar and the upper surface of the rear case being entirely planar apart from the projecting lamp unit holders and retaining elements.

See claim 13 detailing the engaging means of the lid into the rear case. Also see the following claims detailing the lamp unit.

Claim 16 recites one of the lamp holders comprising two spaced apart retainers, an electric socket being located between the two retainers, the lamp holder comprising an electric connector, and the electric connector engaged in the electric

socket. This is not seen to be taught or suggested in the references.

Also see the dependent claims reciting that the lamp unit holders are bridge retainers with a top plate interconnecting two parallel retaining elements. These claims recite that the rear case further comprises an elongate opening providing an access for mounting the lamp unit, from a rear side of the rear case, into the lamp unit holders. There is also a dependent claim reciting that an electric socket is provided in an inner wall of the top plate of one of the bridge retainers. This mounting configuration is not found in the applied references as is believed to be patentable.

See dependent claim 21 reciting the liquid crystal display panel mounted intermediate the rear case and the light guide plate. This recitation is supported at least by Figure 12 and the corresponding specification.

In view of the newly-presented claims being both novel and non-obvious over the applied art, allowance of the case is solicited.

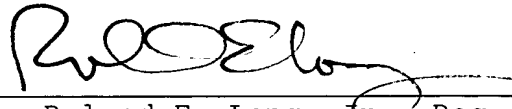
Applicant believes that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of the same is respectfully requested.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX:

The Appendix includes the following item:

- an amended Abstract of the Disclosure